



Vascular Ultrasound

Patient Information

What is vascular ultrasound?

Vascular ultrasound is a special type of ultrasound study that examines arteries and veins, measuring their size and the flow of blood through them.

The scan uses a combination of standard ultrasound and Doppler ultrasound. Standard ultrasound uses sound waves that bounce off different structures of the body to create pictures. Doppler ultrasound records sound waves reflecting off moving objects, such as blood, to measure their speed and other aspects of how they flow.

The sound waves are of a high frequency and can't be heard by the human ear.

What does it involve?

You will be asked to lie on a couch and a gel is applied to the area being scanned to ensure good contact. A small hand held probe is placed against the skin around the area of interest.

You may be asked to lie on a couch, sit in a chair or even stand, depending on the blood vessels that are being scanned.

There is no pain associated with the scan, although occasionally pressure from the ultrasound probe can cause minor discomfort.

The scan rooms use a low-level of lighting to help the person scanning see the screen of the ultrasound machine.

How should I prepare?

Generally there is no specific preparation. Depending on the blood vessels you are having scanned you may need to loosen clothing or change into a gown. Some scans

of the abdomen may need you to stop eating for a few hours beforehand. If this is necessary, you will be told about it in your appointment letter.

Who will be there?

The ultra-sonographer or consultant radiologist who carries out the examination will be with you in the room. You may also meet one of our imaging assistants.

How long will it take?

Typically 20 to 30 minutes. Very occasionally it can take longer, but an hour would be the maximum.

Are there any risks?

No, there are no known risks and ultrasound is considered very safe. No X-rays are used.

When do I find out the results?

If the scan was requested by your family doctor (GP), then the results will be sent directly to them. We aim to do this within ten days.

You may need to make an appointment with your GP to discuss your results - please check with your doctor's surgery.

If the scan was requested by a hospital consultant, the result will be sent to them and will be available at your next appointment.

If you are being scanned as an emergency department patient, an inpatient or a 'fast-track' clinic patient the results will be available to the team looking after you shortly after the scan.

Further information

If you need to cancel, change your appointment or have any concerns/queries about your examination, please contact the Ultrasound department on: 01737 768511 x1611 or x6023 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm).

Directions, parking and travel information for East Surrey Hospital and Crawley Hospital is available on our website at www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk/finding-us/

Contact Us

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Diagnostic Imaging Department
East Surrey Hospital
Redhill Surrey RH1 5RH
Tel: 01737 768511
www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Telephone: 01737 231 958

Email: [**pals@sash.nhs.uk**](mailto:pals@sash.nhs.uk)

Write to: PALS, East Surrey Hospital
Redhill, Surrey RH1 5RH

You can also ask a member of staff to contact PALS on your behalf.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats, including in larger text. Contact: 01737 231 958 for help.

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